

## Message Text

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SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA

SOVIET NEWS BULLETIN, SEPT. 5 (IN SOMALI) CARRIED AN ARTICLE  
ON DIEGO GARCIA TITLED - "THE MALTA OF THE INDIAN OCEAN."  
ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY NIKOLAI OPOTOV, NEPN OBSERVER.

EXCERPTS AS FOLLOWS: (BEGIN EXCERPTS) - THE US DECISION TO  
DOUBLE ITS PRESENCE IN DIEGO GARCIA WAS REVEALED WHEN THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS RECENTLY VOTED 29 MILLION DOLLARS  
TO BE SPENT ON THE EXPANSION OF US BASE IN DIEGO GARCIA. DE-  
SPITE THE FACT THAT IT IS ONLY THREE MONTHS SINCE THE AMERICAN  
SENATE REJECTED THE REQUEST OF THE PENTAGON, IT SEEMS THAT THE  
PENTAGON MEN HAVE NOW RECEIVED A BETTER RESPONSE.

THIS DECISION WAS EXPECTED CONSIDERING LATEST DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. THE EXPECTED DISMANTLING OF THE  
US NAVAL BASE IN BAHREIN WOULD PROBABLY BE FOLLOWED BY REMOVAL  
OF US MILITARY BASES IN GREECE. WORLD MASS MEDIA RELATE THAT  
THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO ALLOW AMERICAN PLANES TO  
LAND OR TAKE-OFF FROM THE BASES IN GREECE. CONSIDERING THE FACT  
THAT DURING THE OCTOBER MIDDLE EAST WAR, 1973, PENTAGON WAR-  
PLANES WERE REFUSED TO REFUEL ON BRITISH BASES IN THE AREA -  
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AMERICAN FREIGHTER AEROPLANES MASSIVELY AIRLIFTED ARMS TO ISRAEL -

IT IS THEREFORE UNDERSTANDABLE WHY AMERICAN RULERS WANT TO EXPEDITE "OPERATION DIEGO GARCIA."

A BASE ON THAT ISLAND WOULD, UP TO A LIMIT, ALLAY PENTAGON "LOSSES". AMERICAN STRATEGISTS BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD GIVE AMERICAN BETTER CONTROL OF EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ASIA AND EAST AFRICA...

THIS LATEST DECISION OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE CAME AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE STRONGLY PROTESTING AGAINST THIS DANGEROUS PENTAGON MOVE. CONSIDERING THE INDIAN OCEAN, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE US ENTERTAINS THE OLD-FASHIONED GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY. THE LEADERS AND POLITICAL THINKERS IN SOMALIA, INDIA, BANGLA-DESH, INDONESIA, SRI LANKA, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, MADAGASCAR, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE PROTESTED MORE THAN ONCE AGAINST THE AMERICAN INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A BASE IN DIEGO GARCIA, WHICH IS A THREAT TO PEACE

AND INCREASES INSTABILITY IN THE AREA.

THE WORRY OF THESE COUNTRIES CANNOT BE IGNORED. MILITARY BASES ALWAYS POSSESS AN INHERENT DANGER, BECAUSE THEY ARE THE SOURCE OF AGGRESSION AGAINST INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATES ...JOHN S. MACKAY, US MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN ONCE DESCRIBED DIEGO GARCIA AS THE MALTA OF THE INDIA OCEAN. ONE CAN ACCEPT THIS DESCRIPTION OF THE AMERICAN ADMIRAL, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE BRITISH BASE IN MALTA WAS A BASTION WHERE FOREIGN TROOPS LAUNCHED REINFORCEMENTS TO TROUBLED AREAS. THE PENTAGON INTENDS DIEGO GARCIA TO PLAY A SIMILAR ROLE...END EXCERPTS.  
MACK

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